

Empowering Children for Social Transformation

Shantilal Muttha

*Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) National Level Non-Profit NGO, Pune 411 016,
Maharashtra India*

E-mail: sgmuttha@bjsindia.org; www.bjsindia.org

KEYWORDS Peace. Moral and Value Education Program. Principals. Teachers. Parents. Behavioral Changes. Families

ABSTRACT A Peace, Moral and Value education program- '*Mulyavardhan*' is being conducted by a NGO in 500 Government run rural primary schools since 2008 to date in Maharashtra. The immediate effect has been on children's interpersonal and conflict resolution skills. Children's learning about the personal benefits of being socio-emotionally skilled, self-controlling, respectful, and responsible for self and others, honest, empathetic towards others, has boosted their self-confidence and transformed them into empowered beings. It was reported by large number of parents that children always/often applied these learnt skills in incidents relating to domestic violence, smoking and alcohol indulgence in the family and community. Parents reported to pay attention to children's advice and act kindly towards them. Children's informed interventions in such situations have led to positive changes in the parents. This change process triggered by the '*Mulyavardhan*' children is enhancing the ambience of the whole community thus setting the stage for social transformation.